

Appln. No. 09/696,095
Amdt. dated December 21, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 25, 2005
and the Advisory Action dated November 23, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 57 and 60 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 48-56 (Cancelled).

Claim 57 (Currently Amended). A printing information distribution apparatus which is adapted to be connected to information terminals and printers located in different places, through a network, the apparatus comprising:

5 user information storage means for storing user information regarding [[an]] information ~~terminal~~ terminals which are permitted to access ~~accesses~~ the printing information distributing apparatus;

printing reservation information storage means for storing
10 printing reservation information;

information terminal authenticating means for acquiring, when one of the information ~~terminal~~ terminals accesses the

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printing information distributing apparatus though the network,
identification information indicating a user of the one of the
15 information terminals accessing the printing information
distribution apparatus, and ~~performs~~ for performing
authentication to determine whether or not the user of said one
of the information ~~terminal~~ terminals is stored in the user
information storage means;

20 printing reservation means for (i) transmitting a printing
reservation screen image for use in reservation for printing
desired printing information to the information terminal, when
the information terminal authenticating means authenticates said
one of the information ~~terminal~~ terminals, (ii) receiving a
25 reservation for printing the desired printing information from
said one of the information ~~terminal~~ terminals, and (iii) storing
printing reservation information indicating the desired printing
information and the identification information indicating the
user of the one of the information terminals accessing the
30 printing information distribution apparatus, which is acquired by
the information terminal authenticating means, in the printing
reservation information storage means, in association with the
printing reservation information and the identification
information;

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35 printer authenticating means for authenticating one of the
printers, when said one of the printers accesses the printing
information distributing apparatus through the network;

identification information fetching means for fetching
identification information which indicates a user of the one of
40 the information terminals accessing the printing information
distribution apparatus and is transmitted [[by]] from said one of
the printers through the network when the printer authenticating
means authenticates said one of the printers ~~and the~~
~~identification information is input;~~

45 printing information generating means for (i) retrieving
from the printing reservation information storage means based on
the identification information fetched by the identification
information fetching means, (ii) reading printing reservation
information associated with the fetched identification
50 information from the printing reservation information storage
means, and (iii) generating printing information based on the
read printing reservation information; and

printing information transmitting means for transmitting,
through the network, the printing information generated by the
55 printing information generating means to said one of the printers
which accesses the printing information distribution apparatus

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~~transmits the identification information~~, and causing said one of the printers to print out the printing information.

Claim 58 (Previously Presented). The printing information distributing apparatus according to claim 57, wherein the printing information transmitting means transmits charge information indicating a printing charge for the printing information to said one of the printers, and transmits the
5 printing information to said one of the printers when the printing charge is paid for said one of the printers.

Claim 59 (Previously Presented). The printing information distributing apparatus according to claim 58, wherein each of the printers includes money entry means for receiving each of predetermined kinds of money, and said one of the printers prints
5 out the printing information transmitted by the printing information transmitting means, when money is entered into the money entry means to pay for the charge indicated by the charge information.

Claim 60 (Currently Amended). A printing information distribution apparatus which is adapted to be connected to

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information terminals and printers located in different places,
through a network, the apparatus comprising:

- 5 a user information storage device which stores user
information regarding ~~[[an]] information terminal~~ terminals which
are permitted to access ~~accesses~~ the printing information
distributing apparatus;
- a printing reservation information storage device which
10 stores printing reservation information;
- an information terminal authenticating device which
acquires, when one of the information ~~terminal~~ terminals accesses
the printing information distributing apparatus though the
network, identification information indicating a user of the one
15 of the information terminals accessing the printing information
distribution apparatus, and performs authentication to determine
whether or not the user of said one of the information ~~terminal~~
terminals is stored in the user information storage device;
- a printing reservation device which (i) transmits a printing
20 reservation screen image for use in reservation for printing
desired printing information to the information terminal, when
the information terminal authenticating device authenticates said
one of the information ~~terminal~~ terminals, (ii) receives a
reservation for printing the desired printing information from

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25 said one of the information ~~terminal~~ terminals, and (iii) stores
printing reservation information indicating the desired printing
information and the identification information indicating the
user of the one of the information terminals accessing the
printing information distribution apparatus, which is acquired by
30 the information terminal authenticating device, in the printing
reservation information storage device, in association with the
printing reservation information and the identification
information;

a printer authenticating device which authenticates one of
35 the printers, when said one of the printers accesses the printing
information distributing apparatus through the network;

an identification information fetching device which fetches
identification information which indicates a user of the one of
the information terminals accessing the printing information
40 distribution apparatus and is transmitted ~~[[by]]~~ from said one of
the printers through the network when the printer authenticating
device authenticates said one of the printers ~~and the~~
~~identification information is input;~~

a printing information generating device which (i) retrieves
45 from the printing reservation information storage device based on
the identification information fetched by the identification

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information fetching device, (ii) reads printing reservation
information associated with the fetches identification
information from the printing reservation information storage
50 device, and (iii) generates printing information based on the
read printing reservation information; and

a printing information transmitting device which transmits,
through the network, the printing information generated by the
printing information generating device to said one of the
55 printers which accesses the printing information distribution
apparatus ~~transmits the identification information~~, and causes
said one of the printers to print out the printing information.

Claim 61 (Previously Presented). The printing information
distributing apparatus according to claim 60, wherein the
printing information transmitting device transmits charge
information indicating a printing charge for the printing
5 information to said one of the printers, and transmits the
printing information to said one of the printers when the
printing charge is paid for said one of the printers.

Claim 62 (Previously Presented). The printing information
distributing apparatus according to claim 61, wherein each of the

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printers includes a money entry device which receives each of
predetermined kinds of money, and said one of the printers prints
5 out the printing information transmitted by the printing
information transmitting device, when money is entered into the
money entry device to pay for the charge indicated by the charge
information.